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Letter dated 31 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letters addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations (S/2007/544 and S/2008/179) and the annexes to the said letters, with regard to the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to state the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless claims of the United Arab Emirates regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, and reiterates that these islands are integral and eternal parts of the Iranian territory, and therefore the contents of the said letters and their annexes regarding these Iranian islands are totally baseless and void of any legal effect and value.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in pursuance of its established policy, believes that the continuation of positive and constructive negotiations between the Iranian Government and the relevant officials of the United Arab Emirates will help to remove any misunderstanding which may arise with regard to the implementation of the 1971 memorandum of understanding between Iran and Sharja about the Iranian island of Abu Musa. Such a negotiation will also lead to the expansion of bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates in various fields.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to stress that the only correct and recognized historical name for the sea area between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, as also emphasized by the United Nations itself, is the Persian Gulf, and accordingly, any use of fabricated names for this body of water, including the fabricated name used in the said letters, is totally unacceptable and is of no legal or political value.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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